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SFAC

29 January 1985
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Pre-Trip Briefing on the USSR for Senate Foreign Relations Committee Staffer Cas Yost

1. On 29 January 1985, Cas Yost, Staff Member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was given a pre-trip briefing on the USSR by the Directorate of Intelligence, Office of Soviet Analysis (SOVA). Mr. Yost was preparing for a week-long trip to the USSR beginning 1 February 1985, along with Senator Charles Mathias (R., MD) and personnel staff assistant Peggy Nalle. []

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2. The briefing consisted of a general overview by SOVA Director Douglas MacEachin and additional comments on current economic, political, and military issues by SOVA Deputy Director [] and []. The briefers covered Moscow's relations with its clients in the Third World (especially Cuba, Vietnam, Syria, Nicaragua and Afghanistan), the mild economic recovery being experienced in the USSR, and the domestic energy outlook. []

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3. The Soviet succession issue was also explored, including the health status of General Secretary Chernenko and current maneuvering by his likely successors. Mr. Yost asked a number of questions about Soviet weapons systems, arms control issues, and the apparent demotion of Marshal Ogarkov. []

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[] Mr. Yost agreed to brief analysts on his return and expressed appreciation for the pre-trip briefing. []

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Liaison Division

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Acting Chief, Liaison Division

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